

Ammodramus caudacutus* (Saltmarsh Sparrow)*Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** Aves (Birds)**Order:** Passeriformes (Perching Birds)**Family:** Emberizidae (Bunting, Juncos, Longspurs, Sparrows And Towhees)**General comments:**

Occurs at 27 sites; regional endemic; many threats; S. Maine pop declining

Species Conservation Range Maps for Saltmarsh Sparrow:Town Map: [Ammodramus caudacutus_Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Ammodramus caudacutus_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:**IUCN Red List Status: **Vulnerable****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:***Ammodramus caudacutus* is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.**Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic:***Ammodramus caudacutus*'s global geographic range is at least 90% contained within the area defined by USFWS Region 5, the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and southeastern Quebec (south of the St. Lawrence River).

Notes: >95% Breeds from Thomaston ME to No. Virginia

High Regional Conservation Priority:**Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:**

Risk: No, Data: Yes, Area: Yes, Spec: No, Warrant Listing: No, Total Categories with "Yes": 2

Northeast Regional Synthesis (RSGCN):

Responsibility: High, Concern: Very High

Partners In Flight:

Regional Species of Concern: Yes, United States and Canada Species of Concern: Yes, Regional Stewardship Species: Yes

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA**Understudied rare taxa: NA****Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to Saltmarsh Sparrow:****Formation Name Intertidal****Macrogroup Name Intertidal Tidal Marsh (peat-forming)****Habitat System Name:** Acadian Coastal Salt Marsh ****Primary Habitat******Habitat System Name:** Coastal Plain Tidal Marsh ****Primary Habitat******Stressors Assigned to Saltmarsh Sparrow:**

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

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Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
Develop a long-term monitoring program which allows for evaluation of effects of human perturbations, natural changes to habitat and management actions to reverse/mitigate such actions.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

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Conservation Action **Category:** Research **Biological Priority:** moderate **Type:** new
 Determine whether the restoration of tidal action would improve resiliency to sea level rise and whether restricted areas would serve as high marsh refugia, at least temporarily

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Dams and Water Management-Use

Storms and Flooding

Conservation Action **Category:** Research **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
 Determine the relative impacts of point source (river-born) vs non-point source (atmospheric) contamination by Mercury.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Industrial and Military Effluents

Air-Bourne Pollutants

Conservation Action **Category:** Research **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
 Investigate what role, if any, non-native invasive species have in habitat loss or reduction in habitat quality. Determine mitigation measures appropriate for Maine saltmarshes.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Conservation Action **Category:** Habitat Management **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** on-going
 Support current Phragmites control efforts in southern Maine and expand to other regions as needed. Monitor effectiveness by conducting point counts to determine bird response.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Conservation Action **Category:** Species Management **Biological Priority:** moderate **Type:** new
 Determine whether gene flow from Nelson's sparrow will lead to loss of Saltmarsh Sparrow genotype from Maine, and whether certain marshes may be more resistant to hybridization?

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.